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RED CROSS CENTENARY

February 1963

ARC Has Big Role in Release of Cuban Prisoners

SELDOM in its 100-year world history has the Red Cross played a more vital and dramatic role with greater dispatch than the American society did in helping bring about the release of the Cuban prisoners just before Christmas.

The ARC assumed total responsibility for handling the receipt and delivery of the \$53 million worth of children's food and medical supplies required by Premier Fidel Castro in the release of the 1,113 Cubans who took part in the Bay of Pigs invasion nearly 2 years ago. The project -- the biggest of its kind ever undertaken by the ARC -- came on the eve of the *Red Cross Centenary*, which is being observed throughout the world during 1963.

Unanimously supported by the executive committee of the ARC Board of Governors, Chairman E. Roland Harriman agreed to Red Cross participation because the project was in keeping with the humanitarian principles of the organization. Uppermost in mind was the welfare of the Cuban prisoners and their families and the fact that the food and medical supplies were urgently needed in Cuba for children and the ill.

The gigantic supply task was undertaken at the request of the Cuban Families Committee and with the sympathetic support of the U.S. government. Soon after the ARC entered the picture on December 5, supply and operations headquarters were opened at national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and at the airports in Opa-locka and Homestead, Fla.

The *African Pilot* and *Shirley Lykes*, both lent to the Red Cross by the Committee of American Steamship Lines, were the first vessels to deliver the supplies. Pan American Airways took supplies to Cuba and ARC personnel to work with Cuban Red Cross officials. Pan American planes also brought back all of the prisoners after the *African Pilot* had delivered its cargo. This serv-

ice, too, was free. Dr. Castro allowed 922 relatives of the prisoners to leave Cuba on the *African Pilot*. Also aboard were ARC medical personnel, 500 cots, 1,000 blankets, and a supply of seasickness preventatives. The balance of the \$53 million shipment will be delivered as soon as possible.

Working with the ARC and providing free transportation for the supply shipments were the Air Transport Association, the Association of American Railroads, the American Trucking Association, and the Committee of American Steamship Lines. AFL-CIO longshoremen worked day and night loading ships at a cost of \$15,000 to the union's Maritime Trades

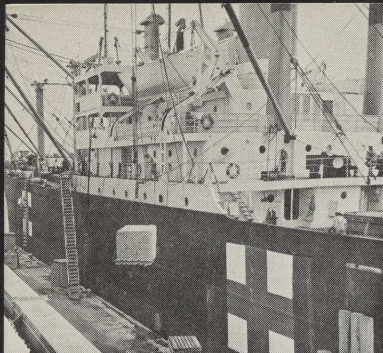
Department. President George Meany said his union was "glad to join Red Cross in this act of mercy."

Hundreds of volunteers from the Dade and Broward County Chapters in Florida helped with the supply shipments and did everything possible to brighten the Yuletide reunion of the prisoners and their families. Red Cross nurses, nurse's aides, (Continued on page 2)

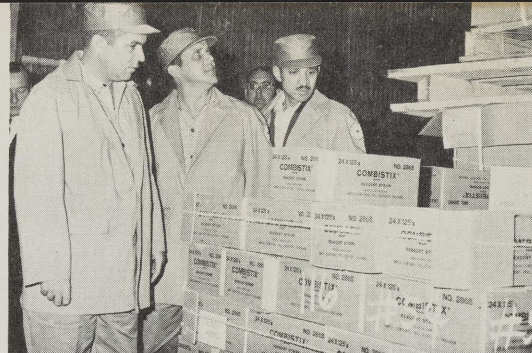


ARC CONVENTION planning moved steadily ahead during December and January despite the enormous amount of work required by the Cuban prisoners project. Further steps will be taken at the forthcoming meetings of the convention committees in Washington, D.C.

The committee on nominations will meet February 21 and 22. The committee chairman is Nat S. Rogers of Jackson, Miss. The committee on convention organization will meet March 7 and 8, with Orien W. Todd, Jr., of San Diego, Calif., as chairman. The committee on resolutions, headed by John W. Stewart, Lincoln, Nebr., convenes in Philadelphia, Pa., May 3 -- 2 days prior to the 1963 convention.



African Pilot being loaded.



Cuban Red Cross inspection.



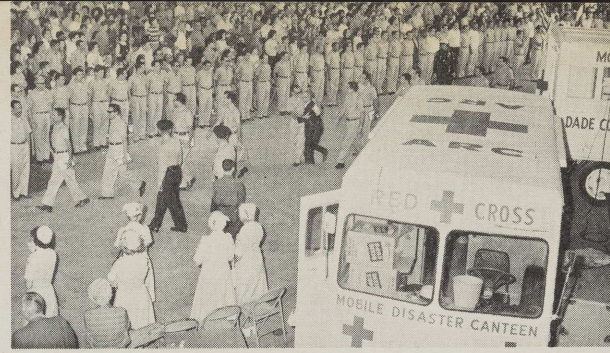
ARC feeding families.



Stretcher arrival.



Red Cross escorts.



Marching to freedom.



Family reunions on Christmas Eve.

CUBAN PROJECT (Continued from page 1)

social welfare aides, doctors, first aid teams, and canteen workers assisted. Comfort items and free long-distance telephone calls were provided for men whose families had moved out of the Miami area.

There was intense excitement and joyous shouting as the prisoners were united with their loved ones. For all of them, it was the greatest Christmas present of their lives. Commented one prisoner:

"When I saw the red cross on the side of the ship entering Havana harbor, I knew it meant my life and my family."

REPRESENTATION. Due to the great volunteer potential in colleges and universities, the ARC Office of Educational Relations is emphasizing the importance of chapters having college-age representation in their delegations attending the Red Cross national convention in Philadelphia May 5-8.

With the nation's undergraduate population rising steadily from over 3,000,000, Dr. Robert G. Gordon, national director of the ARC Office of Educational Relations, says the situation warrants chapters taking a new look at their college relationships.

There will be no convention sessions specifically for college and university students, because they will participate in regular sessions. Many of the events, however, will be of particular interest to them, especially the Educational Relations luncheon, workshops, and Service sessions catering to individual interests. The underlying emphasis of the OER sessions will be the interdependence of elementary, secondary, and higher education and of youth, education, chapters, and communities.

President Kennedy expressed extreme pleasure over the release of the Cuban prisoners and said Christmas would be brighter for all Americans as a result. He had high praise for all involved -- individuals, manufacturers, transportation companies, and labor unions -- and said, "The American Red Cross has again performed a notable service in the cause of humanitarianism in arranging for the shipment of the goods."

UNUSUAL VACATION. When 20 girls who work at the Clinton (S.C.) cotton mill went to Myrtle Beach on vacation, the factory's social affairs director wrote to the Horry County Chapter stating that the girls wanted to take the Red Cross first aid course and inquiring if the chapter could oblige.

"Of course we did," said Mrs. Dottie Taylor, chapter executive. "We felt it was real interesting that these girls would want to take time out from their vacation to spend 2 hours a night in class."

FAMILY SERVICE. The Aurora (Ill.) Chapter proudly presented its "Red Cross family" as an annual meeting feature. This all-Red Cross family consists of A.L. Palmer, chapter vice chairman, his wife, Mary, water safety instructor-trainer, her twin sister, Martha Holm, first aid instructor-trainer, and the Palmers' two daughters, Nancy, 14, president of the ARC youth city council, and Polly, 16, president of the high school youth council.



Christmas was brightened for half a dozen families in the Greater New York area when radio station WNEW and the Red Cross made possible free telephone calls from families to servicemen serving overseas. Shown above are 10-year-old Joseph Weihs and his mother of Ridgewood, N.Y., talking with Pvt. Paul Weihs in Korea.

NOMINATION of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans has been made by the Clara Barton Chapter, Dansville, N.Y., first chapter to be formed in the United States. Elections to the Hall of Fame, located on University Heights in New York City, are held every 5 years by an electoral college of 120 Americans. The next election will be in 1965. Since 1900, when the Hall of Fame was instituted through a gift from the late Helen Gould Shepard, 8 women and 81 men have been honored.

Rev. John C. O'Donnell, chairman of the Clara Barton Chapter, in nominating Miss Barton for the high honor, said she should be considered not only for founding the American Red Cross and serving as its President for 23 years but also for her Civil War battlefield service, her search for missing Union soldiers, and her long successful struggle to obtain U.S. adhesion to the Geneva Conventions under which the world-wide Red Cross functions.



Among the most active Red Cross volunteers aiding victims of Typhoon Karen on Guam was Rev. Mel McCormack of Yonkers, N.Y., who has been a priest on the Pacific island since 1941. During World War II he was interned by the Japanese and remembers that Red Cross food parcels helped keep the prisoners alive. Father Mel is shown above with the Red Cross volunteer patch he wore while distributing food and helping to locate families following the recent disaster.

"CREATURES OF RARITY" is the term *Lansing* (Mich.) *State Journal* reporter Robert Branson used to describe the 10 U.S. Navy nurses and a lone female Red Cross field director who remained at the Guantanamo Naval Base with thousands of marines and naval personnel during the Cuban crisis. All other women were evacuated until the danger passed.

Correspondent Branson wrote that the "11 rosy-hued, white-crested creatures of great rarity have become cherished pets" of the men who stayed to fight if necessary. Mr. Branson quoted the nurses as saying that Beryl Trombley, Bay City, Mich., the lone ARC representative, had the busiest workload of them all.

Passing through Washington, D.C., last month en route to rotation reassignment in the European Area, Miss Trombley said things are back to normal again at "Gitmo" and that 11 volunteers arrived back on the island in time to conduct the usual Christmas party in the base hospital. Serving as field director now at Guantanamo is Suzanne Sennott, Evanston, Ill.

ONE OF EVERY 17 persons in the United States was directly served by the Red Cross during 1961-62.

Old and worn and nursing bruises from nearly 20 years of ocean travel, the ship *African Pilot* has gone into mothballs after a last-minute reprieve that closed her record in a blaze of glory in the Cuban prisoner project. The World War II vintage freighter, christened *Mandarin* in 1944, was the sixth vessel to serve as an American Red Cross mercy ship. The new \$10 million cargo liner *Shirley Lykes* became the seventh shortly afterward. Both were lent to the Red Cross during the Cuban project by the Committee of American Steamship Lines.

The first such ARC ship was chartered to take food contributions to famine victims in Russia in 1892. Next was the *State of Texas*, which Clara Barton used to take staff and supplies to Cuba during the Spanish-American War. In 1914 the SS *Red Cross* took doctors, nurses, and medical supplies to Europe. During World War II, two Red Cross mercy ships, the Philippine freighter *Mactan* and the Swedish liner *Gripsholm*, transported wounded soldiers. The latter also carried food parcels for prisoners.

A good example of ingenuity and imagination was displayed by the South Brevard County Chapter when the city of Melbourne, Fla., decided to redesignate its streets. Realizing that changed addresses might cause delayed or misdirected government checks for veterans, the chapter distributed change of address forms to veterans and their beneficiaries and offered help in filling them out.

COLD RESEARCH. One thousand pints of whole blood that the American Red Cross collected and is having processed into gamma globulin will be used by a U.S. Naval Medical Research unit in a controlled study to determine its value in preventing viral respiratory infections leading to pneumonia.

The gamma globulin will be administered in varying amounts to 3,600 recruits at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois. The health record of these men will be followed by the Navy to determine whether they remain free from colds and other respiratory ailments. The blood for the gamma globulin was collected by the Badger Red Cross Regional Blood Center at Madison, Wis.

ENTHUSIASM. Bill Guyer, Durham, N.C., became so enthusiastic after taking the Red Cross standard first aid course that he not only continued with the advanced and instructor courses and formed a mobile unit but also sold 50 first aid textbooks.

Mr. Guyer is the area sales representative for a baby food products firm. While visiting grocery stores, he convinced the managers that the next best thing to having first aid training is to have the Red Cross textbook at hand. He has been named vice chairman of First Aid for the Durham County Chapter and also teaches classes in addition to helping plan informative programs.

PLAN OF ACTION. Representatives of the National Retired Teachers Association and of the American Red Cross are working on a plan for experimentation in school-related youth programs in which retired teachers can assist. Participating in the initial meeting with the NRTA were officials from the ARC Offices of Educational Relations, Volunteers, and Public Information.

The purpose of the project was to explore ideas looking toward the development of community programs involving young people and retired persons and to find ways in which former teachers might use their professional skills in developing school-related programs on all levels.

TO HELP victims of severe January floods in Morocco, the ARC contributed \$5,000 in cash, also 1,920 friendship boxes and 25 school chests, valued at \$6,340.

NAVAL SALUTE. "I find it impossible to over-emphasize how important it is to the morale of our people to know that their families back home can come to you for help," Vice Adm. Howard A. Yeager, Commander, Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, told the California State Red Cross Conference last month.

Noting that many of the "numberless services to military dependents go unannounced and unheralded and as a consequence are sometimes unappreciated," Adm. Yeager said, "I want to again express my deep and profound appreciation for your around-the-clock services....Yours is a most important endeavor....The Red Cross is vital to morale and essential to the physical, material, and morale needs of the men and women who have been the bulwark of our national defense."

HONORED jointly by the Newport (Vt.) American Legion Post and its auxiliary and by the Orleans County Chapter were Reginald and Ronald Boucher, two youths from nearby Irasburg. The two brothers had rescued another boy from drowning and had saved his life by artificial respiration. The awards were given in the Legion Hall the same evening that the Newport Post and its auxiliary were installing newly elected officers.

YULETIDE BLOOD CLUB. Early last December the Louisville (Ky.) Chapter announced the opening of a Blood Donor Christmas Club so that residents of the city could include a special blood donation as part of their Christmas giving. One of the first to respond was a man from out of town -- none other than Paul K. Routzahn, member of the ARC Board of Governors from Connersville, Ind., who was attending a Red Cross conference in Louisville.

PEOPLE find many ways to show their appreciation. Unique in this respect was action taken by members of the naval reserve unit in Durham, N.C.

To show their thanks for past Red Cross services, the reservists repainted the Durham County Chapter building inside and out, made necessary repairs, and even trimmed the shrubbery.

When Red Cross collected blood is needed quickly at the Lewistown (Pa.) Hospital, it can be made available in unusually fast time -- thanks to the Flying Physicians Association.

One of the five hospital doctors holding pilot's licenses flies to Johnstown Airport to pick up rare blood from the Red Cross Regional Blood Center. On less urgent occasions, the Mifflin County Chapter arranges for delivery by state police.